

RAIN GARDEN FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKSHOP

NOV 5, 2015

TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT FIRE
STATION

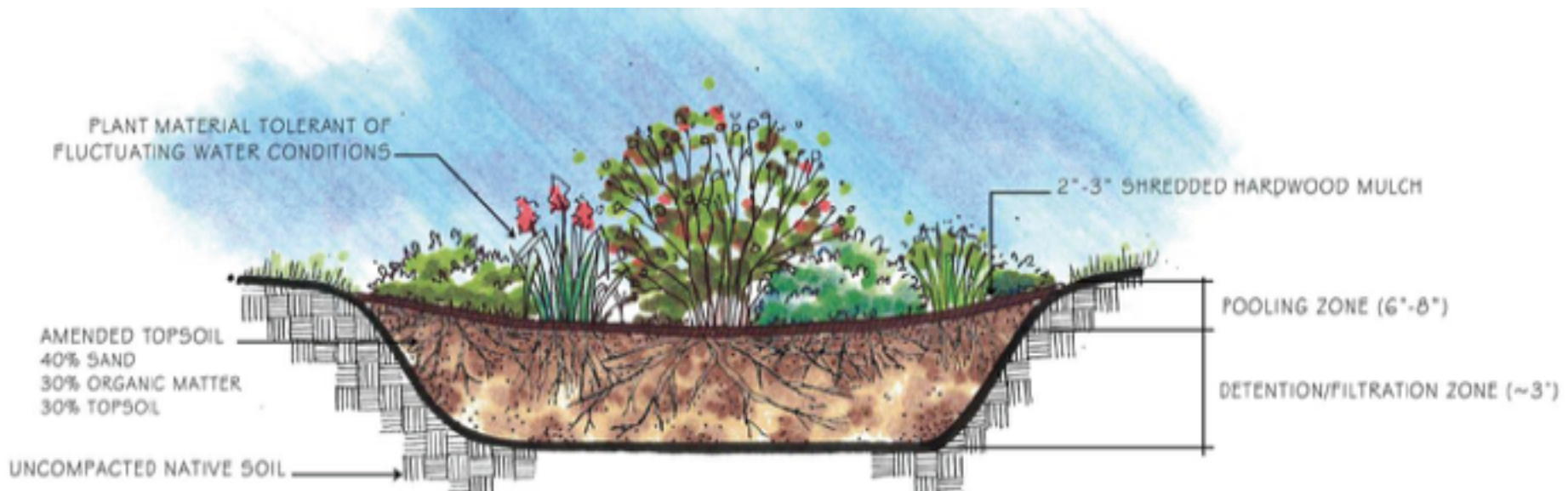
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CLEMSON EXTENSION



WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN

A **rain garden** is a planted depression that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots and compacted lawn areas, the opportunity to be absorbed.

-Wikipedia



TODAY!



- **Soil**
- **Siting**
- **Design Criteria**
- **Plant Selection and Considerations**
- **Maintenance**
- **Installation**
- **Supporting Resources**

WHY RAIN GARDENS?



Why Rain Gardens?

- Allows for **Collection and infiltration** of stormwater runoff (reducing quantity)
- **Manage erosion & moisture control** issues around home
- **Beautify** the landscape
- Plants and microbes do the work of **pollutant removal** (protecting downstream water quality)
- **Attract desirable wildlife** (birds and butterflies)
- **Water-wise:** A smart way to irrigate



Rain Garden Myths



Table I: Barrier Benefit Analysis Residential Rain Gardens

| Barriers | Benefits |
|--|---|
| Unsightly | Aesthetically pleasing landscape feature |
| Mosquito breeding ground | Manage stormwater issues |
| A lot of work upfront | Easily maintained over time |
| Money | Long lasting landscape feature |
| Perceived pressure of social norm | Environmentally friendly approach to gardening (“green gardening”) |
| Lack of knowledge | Existing Resources |

RAIN GARDENS

- Similar plants
- Installed for fun, education and/or added landscape feature
- No PE approval required
- Usually small, “homeowner sized”
- Usually use native soil
- Typically takes runoff from so many square feet of rooftop and/or driveway surfaces
- Provides experimentation with plants
- A plant-lover’s dream

BIORETENTION CELLS

- Similar plants
- More regulated in design and function
- RLA / PE approval required
- Ranges from small to very large
- Usually use specialized - engineered soils to improve drainage
- Typically takes runoff from greater and more diverse impervious acres

BIORETENTION CELL VS RAIN GARDEN



Carolina Rain Garden Initiative



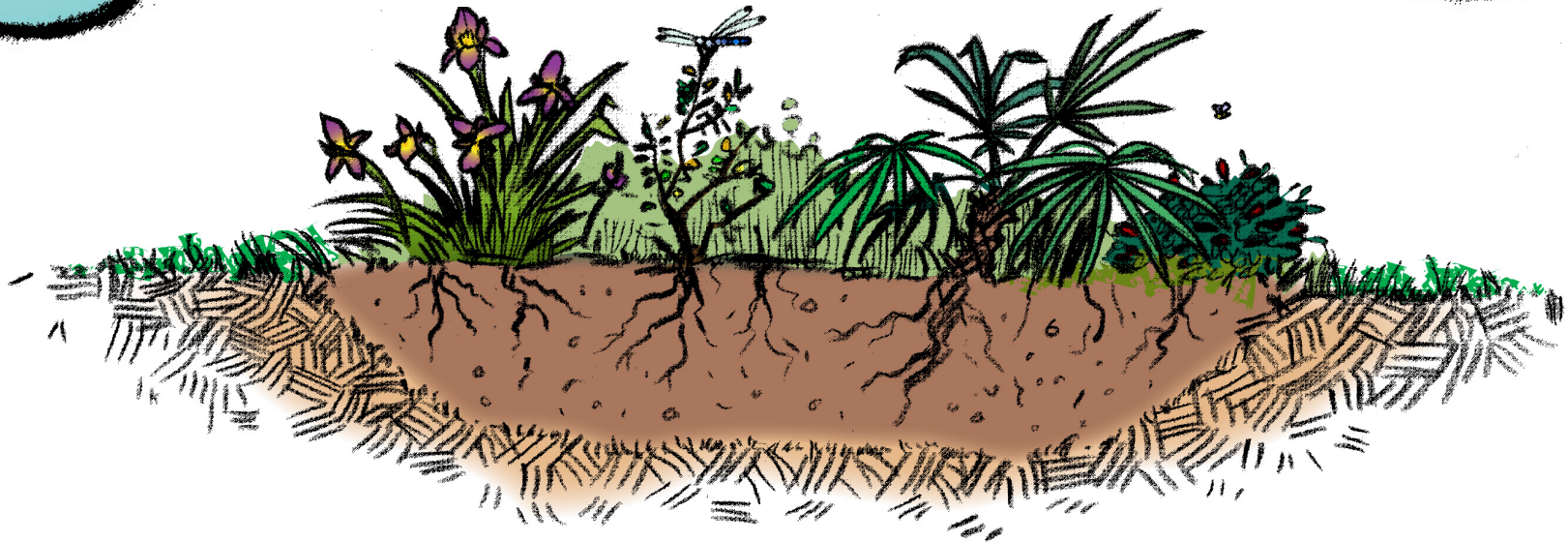
**Demo
Sites**

**Professional
Recognition**

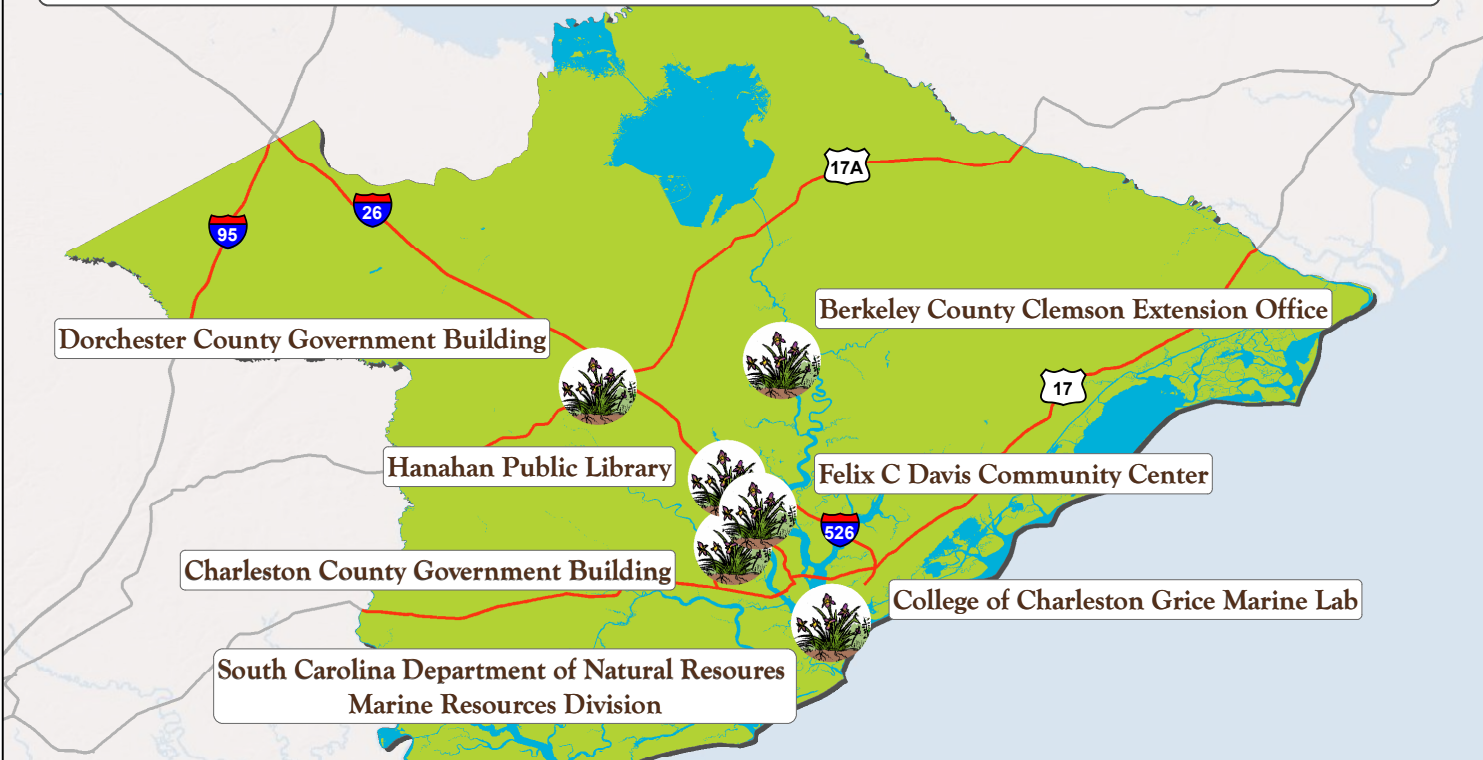
Workshops

**Virtual Rain
Garden**

**Rain Garden
Tracker**

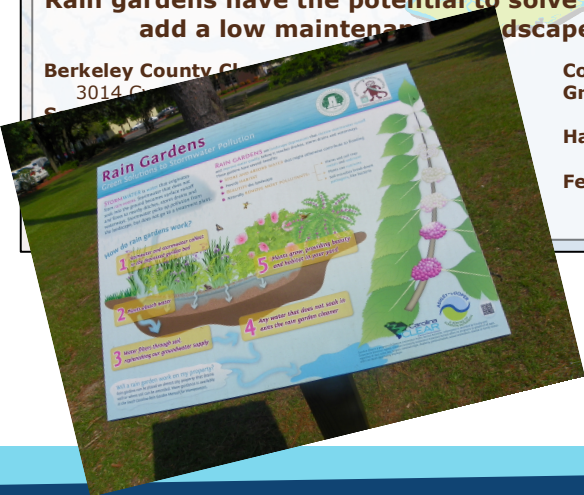


Demonstration Rain Gardens in the Charleston Tri-county Area



Rain gardens have the potential to solve stormwater runoff problems before they occur. And, rain gardens add a low maintenance landscaped feature in your yard! Visit a demonstration site near you!

- Berkeley County CL**
3014 G
- College of Charleston- Grice Marine Laboratory**
205 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston
- Hanahan Public Library**
1216 Murray Drive, Hanahan
- Felix C. Davis Community Center**
4800 Park Circle, North Charleston



PROFESSIONAL RAIN GARDEN INSTALLER PROGRAM



Reference these Clemson Extension Resources!

